

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THANK YOU TO SOLDIERS OF 2-116TH FIELD ARTILLERY

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to members of the 2-116th Field Artillery. These soldiers, many from my district, were mobilized in late January 2003 and, upon completion of the appropriate training, departed for Southwest Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit moved into Baghdad and later served in Ar Ramadi, where it provided support to the 1st Battalion. The 2-116th soldiers performed missions including escort, guard duty on the Euphrates River, force protection, fire support, and patrols, all while helping to train members of the Iraqi police force.

These brave Americans have served their country with pride and honor. This country owes its freedom to these soldiers and the ones who came before them. Now, so do the citizens of Iraq. After nearly a year of deployment, the 2-116th has accomplished its mission, and it is my humble honor to welcome them home.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT ELIU MIERSANDOVAL

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district. On January 31, 2004, Sgt. Eliu Miersandoval, born Abi Mier, of San Clemente, California, was killed in action in Kirkuk, Iraq. Today I would ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to his country.

Eliu was born on June 26, 1976, in Durango, Mexico, to Pascual and Estella Mier, who currently reside in Pomona, California. Eliu went to high school at San Clemente High, and after graduating he joined the Army in 1996 for great future opportunities and to travel. In 1999, he was sent to Fort Hood, Texas, and was later promoted to Sergeant in the 4th Infantry Division. He was a light-wheeled vehicle mechanic in what is the most technically advanced combat division in the Army. It was the 4th Infantry Division that participated in the capture of Saddam Hussein.

Eliu is remembered as an outstanding athlete and talented musician. More importantly, he was a loving husband to his wife Amanda and a proud father to his son Adrian.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country, we realize that this history is comprised of men and women like Eliu who bravely fought for the ideals of freedom and

democracy. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. My thoughts, prayers and deepest gratitude for their sacrifice go out to his wife and family. There are no words that can relieve their pain.

His wife and family have all given a part of themselves in the loss of their loved one. Their loss is part of a larger effort to give the Iraqi people and all people around the world the opportunity to live in freedom and without fear. I hope they know that their son and the sacrifice he made will not be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I was attending to a family emergency and missed the following recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on Rollcall No. 19; "yes" on Rollcall No. 20; and "yes" on Rollcall No. 21.

THANK YOU TO SOLDIERS OF COMPANY A 2-124TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to members of Company A 2-124th Infantry Regiment. These soldiers were mobilized in December 2003 and, upon completion of the appropriate training, deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After securing Patriot Batteries in Bahrain and Qatar, Company A advanced into Kuwait and then Iraq in April 2003, where the unit provided force protection and fixed-site security. Later, the soldiers attached to several active duty units, including a military police battalion, the 4th Infantry Division, and a Stryker brigade near Balad.

These brave Americans have served their country with pride and honor. This country owes its freedom to these soldiers and the ones who came before them. Now, so do the citizens of Iraq. After over a year of deployment, Company A 2-124th has accomplished its mission, and it is my humble honor to welcome them home.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF ANNE HART

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of one of my constituents who has unselfishly helped and enriched the lives of many of our Nation's veterans, Mrs. Anne Hart.

For the past 10 years, Anne has worked tirelessly and unselfishly as a volunteer within the Office of Veterans' Affairs in Pensacola where she volunteers over 50 hours a week helping veterans file claims. She has been an extremely valuable asset to the VA office and officers with whom she has worked alongside.

Anne's husband was shot down in Vietnam in 1972 and was listed as missing in action until 1978. As a widow with six young children, she confronted the Federal government in 1986 by challenging their identification of her husband from the remains that were found.

At the time, she was unknowingly preparing herself to later help fight for several veterans who have served their country with honor and courage. Anne's struggles have earned her much respect among veterans, who have described her as having a heart of an angel.

Other than helping veterans in need within the Veterans' Affairs office, Anne has come to the aid of many homeless veterans who were persuaded by her influence to abandon the notion of "giving up." She even drove one veteran over 75 miles to his mother's funeral in Alabama.

Anne's job has been to keep veterans' records in order, effectively by making sure all of the facts are quickly verified in order to help facilitate a sometimes difficult claims process. Her faithful service of acting as a sounding board for thousands of veterans has made her a guardian angel to many of the bravest veterans that our country will ever know.

Many veterans, who travel from hundreds of miles to see her, have walked away with the feeling that "someone really cares."

Anne is strongly supportive of her government and feels that her obligation is to make sure that they do things the right way.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to recognize this special lady with a big heart, Anne Hart, for the example she has set for our country and for northwest Florida. I offer my sincere thanks for all that she has done for northwest Florida and the United States of America.

CONGRATULATIONS TO I.J. CAMPBELL

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations to I.J. Campbell, who received

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.